

Maryland SHIP "Health Action" Newsletter

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Governor Martin O'Malley
Lt. Governor Anthony G. Brown
DHMH Secretary Josh Sharfstein

October 11, 2013

Worcester County Hosts Flu Vaccination Clinics



Since the first cases of seasonal influenza have been officially reported, the Worcester County Health Department is hosting flu vaccine clinics to protect residents. The vaccine available this year offers

protection against three strains of the flu virus expected to circulate this season. Adults age 65 and older have the option of receiving a high-dose flu vaccine, which may result in a stronger immune response. DHMH recommends that all residents, including pregnant women and those with a medical condition, get a flu vaccine each year. The flu vaccine is available for Worcester County residents from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the following locations:

- Pocomoke Health Center, Wednesdays, October 16, 23 and 30
- Berlin Health Center, Thursdays, October 17, 24 and 31
- Snow Hill Health Department, Fridays, October 18, 25 and November 1

Click [here](#) or call [\(410\) 632-1100](tel:(410)632-1100) for more information.

View the [SHIP measure](#) and [tools](#) for increasing the percentage of individuals vaccinated annually against seasonal influenza.

National Latino AIDS Awareness Day



On Tuesday, October 15, 2013, DHMH will observe National Latino AIDS Awareness Day (NLAAD). This year's theme is "Commit to Speak," or "Comprométete a Hablar" in Spanish. Over one million Americans are living with HIV and the rate of infections is increasing. In 2011, HIV testing led to the identification of 1,311 newly reported HIV diagnoses in Maryland,

with Hispanics accounting for 6.9% of the diagnoses. As of December 31, 2012, 28,197 Marylanders were diagnosed and living with HIV/AIDS. The NLAAD campaign encourages local health departments, educational institutions and non-profit organizations to provide HIV testing, education, and treatment services for Hispanic communities in Maryland.

Click [here](#) for more information about National Latino AIDS Awareness Day.

View the [SHIP measure](#) and [tools](#) for reducing new HIV infections among adults and adolescents.

The Commonwealth Fund Releases 2013 Scorecard on State Health System Performance for Low-Income Populations



THE COMMONWEALTH FUND
A Private Foundation Working Toward a High Performance Health System

The Commonwealth Fund's new Scorecard on *State Health System Performance for Low-Income Populations, 2013* highlights health disparities and suggests how states can improve their health systems for low-income populations. The report identifies benchmarks for state performance and suggests that if all states reached the targets, an estimated 86,000 fewer people would die prematurely and millions of Americans would receive timely preventive care.

According to the report, if Maryland improved to the level of Hawaii, the best-performing state, 258,141 more adults would be insured, 12,721 more older adults would receive preventive care, and there would be 2,719 fewer hospitalizations for potentially preventable conditions. The disparity in performance among states represents an opportunity to improve the overall health of the nation.

Click [here](#) to read the Commonwealth Fund's report.

View the [SHIP measure](#) for increasing life expectancy.

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month



Violence against women and children has become a prevalent social health problem. To combat this public health concern, the state of Maryland joins nationwide efforts to celebrate October as National Domestic Violence Awareness month.

In Maryland, from 1987 to 2010, 1,500 individuals died as a result of domestic violence. According to the Maryland Police, in 2009, over 18,000 Marylanders reported domestic violence incidents. In 2010, 17,931 Marylanders were victims of domestic violence related crimes: 74% were women.

and 26% were men. Join the efforts in Maryland to combat domestic violence by supporting the Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence statewide [events](#) or [get involved](#) with the National Network to End Domestic Violence.

Click [here](#) for more information from the Maryland Health Care Coalition Against Domestic Violence.

Click [here](#) for more information from the Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence.

View the [SHIP measure](#) and [tools](#) for reducing domestic violence.

News from the Office of Primary Care Access

The Rural Action Assembly is Coming

On October 16 - 18, 2013, The Maryland State Office of Rural Health (SORH), the Rural Maryland Council (RMC) and the Maryland Rural Health Association (MRHA) are hosting a conference focused on defining key issues for Maryland's rural communities. Through the integration of key rural stakeholders, the goal is to work towards creating sustainable rural communities and plan for the future and prosperity of rural Maryland.

Click [here](#) for more information.

UM Shore Regional Health "Ask the Expert" Series

The University of Maryland Shore Regional Health is continuing its "Ask the Expert" series, a free community health program. Upcoming talks include the following:

Dale Reddish Jafari, MSN, FNP-BC, discussing "Women's Health: When Should I Be Screened?" on October 15, at 7:00 p.m., at the Caroline County Public Library, Denton, MD.

Anna Ahn, MD, Midshore Pulmonary Associates, discussing "Living Well with Obstructive Lung Disease," on October 24, at 2:00 p.m., at the Talbot Senior Center, Easton, MD.